

Desert Rifles

Issue 10

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Jordanian Branch of Brown and Root Delivers Hot Chow to Ar Ramadi

Story and Photos by Cpl. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

RIFLES BASE--There has been a lot of dust kicked up lately as a portion of the palace is slowly being transformed into a dining hall and recreation area for the troops stationed at Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Hundreds of workers from what seems to be as many countries are working round the clock to get the facilities up and



CONSTRUCTION--Civilian workers from a subsidiary of Brown and Root work night (above) and Day (right) to complete construction of the new dining facility for Rifles Base.



running as soon as possible.

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"It may look like chaos to someone on the outside, but I like to call it controlled chaos," said Glenn Schultz, Iraq Division Manager with Diuda-a subsidiary of Brown and Root. "At least we have an end product in mind."

Schultz's team brought everything necessary to get the dining facility up and running, from stoves and sinks to the actual food. They will build, operate and maintain the facility themselves, allowing for the soldiers to relax.

Most of the staff, many of them foreign nationals, has worked for the U.S. mili-

tary before. Indeed, most of the staff currently working at rifles base came from military bases in Jordan. There they were the sole means of food for close to 18,000 troops according to Schultz. When U.S. Military operations were shut down in Jordan, many of the workers chose to wait around rather than seek work elsewhere in the hope that they could help out once the military was established in Iraq.

They could have gone to work in hotels or other restaurants or anything. They chose to wait and see if they could be used in Iraq, said Schultz. "Many work for their wage, but almost all of them work because they enjoy helping out the American military."

Schultz himself has been on both sides of an operation like this. As a Chief Master Sgt. in the U.S. Air force, Schultz worked with the

civilian contractors on a daily basis ensuring that they received the support necessary to do their job. Once he retired, he was asked by the same civilian agency to work for them doing the same thing. Thus, Schultz understands the mentality of the troops and works to create a relaxing environment for both soldier and civilian.

"I think that having a place like this really helps out the morale. More than that, it helps out the soldier by giving them a place where they can get away from the stress of a situation like this and really relax," said Schultz.

Schultz's company was the first to offer a hot meal inside the theater and is, to the best of his knowledge, the only contracted catering service working in the area. The 'first meal,' was served at Al Asad air base where 3800 troops were treated to class A rations for the first time since arriving in country.

Schultz added that every member of his staff is proud to help out the U.S. military in any way that they can. "All of these people came from other countries and cultures to help the United States military."

Now thanks to the efforts of Schultz and his crew, the soldiers at Rifles base will soon be able to enjoy a hot Class A meal that more than likely did not simply come from a can or bag.

Waste Not Want Not: 3d ACR Supply Troops Deal with a Food Surplus

Story and Photos by Spc. Emily Donaghy
350th MPAD

AL ASAD, Iraq-The 3d ACR's Supply and Transportation troops have never had such a big load on their hands before. Supply and Transportation usually handles a three to five thousand man element, but their current mission, supporting the 3d ACR in Operation Iraqi Freedom, requires support for about ten thousand soldiers.

Transportation, or lack thereof, has been a recent problem for Al Asad Air Base. The food and water supply is in excess and transportation isn't always available for immediate distribution. The transportation troops currently have



SURPLUS--Spc. Christy Tillman, Supply and Transportation Support squadron 3d ACR, carries an opened ration box to a pile that will be thrown away.

around twenty five trucks delivering food and water throughout the Al Anbar region. According to Cpl. Frank Greene, Supply and Transportation Troop 3d ACR, a more effective distribution rate would require about 35 trucks or more.

"An operation like this has never been done before; hopefully more transportation troops will be coming in. Another unit just came in this morning to help, field artillery 122nd engineers,"

said Greene.

The process of eliminating excess food rations can be left in part to the scavengers that sneak into the hanger stacked with boxes of food at night. Some of the supply troops have found opened boxes with missing rations. The scavengers search through boxes containing complete meals, take out what they



SURPLUS--The hanger at Al Asad where food and water rations are stored.

want and leave an incomplete box behind. Supply has to throw away incomplete meal boxes because the entire boxes' contents provide the nutrition needed to make a bal-

anced meal.

This may seem like a waste of good food, but drastic steps must be taken in case of tampering.

"They brought us around 32 milvans in just one day," said Spc. Janelle Johnson, Supply and Transportation Support Squadron 3d ACR.

Johnson and her coworkers are "breaking rations" or separating the food so when units arrive for pickup the food is already organized. Spc. Constance Byrd, who is also with the 3d ACR Support Squadron said, "I was told V Corps pushes the rations on us in case something happens to the supply lines, we will have enough (food)."

"We will always be ready," she added.

WINSTON CUP SERIES									
Rank	+/-	Driver	Points	Behind	Starts	Wins	Top 5	Top 10	Winnings
		Matt Kenseth	2551	Leader	17	1	7	14	\$2,232,170
	+1	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2371	-180	17	1	7	11	\$2,707,520
	-1	Jeff Gordon	2348	-203	17	1	6	9	\$2,578,560
		Bobby Labonte	2296	-255	17	1	10	11	\$2,512,420
		Michael Waltrip	2134	-417	17	1	4	6	\$2,896,150
	+1	Jimmie Johnson	2079	-472	17	1	2	6	\$3,253,010
	-1	Kurt Busch	2067	-484	17	3	6	8	\$3,038,440
	+1	Kevin Harvick	2049	-502	17	0	3	6	\$2,403,180
	-1	Rusty Wallace	2019	-532	17	0	1	6	\$1,928,300
0		Sterling Marlin	1998	-553	17	0	0	8	\$2,030,400
1		Tony Stewart	1949	-602	17	1	4	8	\$2,459,390
2		Mark Martin	1949	-602	17	0	5	7	\$2,242,180
3	+2	Terry Labonte	1910	-641	17	0	2	5	\$1,810,200
4	+2	Jeff Burton	1907	-644	17	0	2	4	\$1,983,970
5	-2	Robby Gordon	1877	-674	17	1	2	5	\$1,939,490

Winston Cup Series NASCAR Standings



Question of the Week:

When is the RXO's Birthday?

Submit answers to: RSCM Caldwell in writing with name, rank and section.

Last weeks answer:

Not only do Skittles allow one to "Taste the rainbow," but they contain 50% of one's daily allowance of important vitamin C.

Reserve Postal Ready to Deliver

Photo and Story by Spc. Justin A. Carmack

AL ASAD, Iraq--The postal needs of the 3d ACR are being delivered by the 834th AG Company's (Postal) 1st Platoon, an Army Reserve unit based out of Miami, Fla.

First Platoon is currently operating out of Al Asad air base located near Baghdadi, Iraq. They provide support for the 3d ACR and its' elements.

Other platoons from the 834th have been mobilized to support other divisions.

"Most of the time they don't activate the entire unit for an operation. It is usually just a platoon," said Capt. Juan Huerta commanding officer of the 834th's first platoon.



DELIVER--Capt. Juan Huerta of the 834th helps unload mail to be delivered to soldiers from the 3d ACR.

Sgt. Ken Ordosh from first platoon added that due to the sheer size of Operation Iraqi Freedom everyone within the unit has been deployed somewhere within the theatre.

Because they are one of only six tier-one-alpha postal units within the Army, members of their unit are deployed almost every time a military operation takes place. In recent history they have been mobilized to support operations in Korea, Bosnia,

Kosovo, Afghanistan, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ordosh said the platoon is proud to be



WORKING--Soldiers from the 834th divide the 3d ACR's mail. Mail is divided by unit and delivered to the location via logpack.

serving with the 3d ACR and looks forward to meeting their postal needs for the duration of the operation. ✂

Army Doctors Return to The Women's Clinic in Juba

**Story by Spc. Emily Donaghy
350th MPAD**

JUBA, Iraq--Another women's clinic opened at the military housing complex right outside of Al Asad air base in the town of Juba. Once again, Capt. Anne B. Rossignol, 4th squadron 3d ACR, and Capt. Lisa M. Flynn with the 945th Forward Surgical Team, served as the only two doctors for this project. The doctors, three medics, and two linguists worked hard from 9:30 a.m. until around 4:00 p.m. and finished successfully after every patient had been seen.

In the past, patients had to be turned away because the support to examine a larger number of patients wasn't available; however, the past two clinic openings have not turned away even one patient.

The first patient of the day was Shukria Mahmood, who had shown up about a half hour before the clinic opened. Shukria had never had her blood pressure checked before and said, "I didn't have it done before, I was scared." Capt. Flynn gave Shukria a prescription for blood pressure medication that was not available at the clinic and would have to be picked up in Baghdad. Because of the nature of the clinic project medication is not always available. The Iraqi women understand this and remain grateful for the exams and written prescriptions.

The clinic's main purpose is to treat mature women for health problems, but this day one 12 year old girl was a priority. The girl's name was Wedian Salah and she was born with an auto immune deficiency disease which caused very large blisters to form all over her legs and feet. The disease had

also caused her hair to thin, leaving most of her scalp visible. Wedian's body does not produce the vitamins that most produce naturally to keep the healthy and fight infection. She was born with the disease, which led the doctors to believe her case was genetic.

Some of the blisters were open and infected and had only been treated by the little girl herself. She had popped and drained the sores as long as she could remember. Iraqi doctors had told the girl and her mother there was no cure and no medication could help. The disease cannot be cured but the effects can be treated.

Medics opened the fluid-filled blisters with a small gauge needle and drained them. They helped Wedian remove all of the old, dirty gauze that seemed to have bonded with her skin over time and flushed the sores with sterile water.

Medics then spread an antibiotic ointment called Bacitracin all over the girls legs and feet. At this point, both Wedian and her Mother were struggling to hold back their tears. The next step was covering both of her legs and feet completely in gauze wrap and ace bandages to prevent further infection.

Wedian's expression changed quickly from pain to joy filled when she looked down to see the new snow white bandages covering her once visibly diseased limbs. Wedian and her mother left with a tube of Bacitracin and extra wraps so they could change the bandages themselves as needed. Thanks to another act of selfless service on the clinic teams' part, two more of Iraq's people better understand the motivations behind the Coalition Forces' actions in their country.

Father and Son Reunion in Ar Ramadi

**Story and Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gary Qualls
Special Correspondent to the Desert Rifles**

AR RAMADI, Iraq - When Sgt. Maj. Paul D. Wilkinson, regimental training sergeant major for 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, passed a young soldier recently he saw a face he never envisioned seeing in a far away country, let alone in the same regiment. He saw the face of his son.

Wilkinson and his son, Pfc. Adam A. Wilkinson, a fuel handler in S & T Troop, Support Squadron, saw each other earlier this month when the younger Wilkinson's platoon sergeant sent him on a mission to Rifles Base here, where the senior Wilkinson is assigned. The senior Wilkinson didn't know his son was coming to the base. They passed by each other on the compound and the



Sgt. Maj. Paul D. Wilkinson pauses for the camera during a reunion with his son, Pfc. Adam A. Wilkinson. The father and son are both in 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and deployed to Iraq.

senior Wilkinson was surprised to see his son and almost didn't recognize him.

"He changed a little bit," the senior Wilkinson said. "I had to look harder. He's not the same goof he was. It was good to see

each other."

The younger Wilkinson, who joined the Army within the past year, deployed to Iraq with the regiment on April 3. The senior Wilkinson came here after finishing the Sergeant Major's Academy and in-processing at Fort Carson. It became possible for the senior Wilkinson to be assigned to the regiment when the former regimental training sergeant major, Sergeant Major John Calendar, was selected to fill a battalion command sergeant major slot with 3rd Infantry Division.

"I'm still amazed," said the senior Wilkinson about the reality of being in the same regiment as his son. "What are the odds?" Although the younger Wilkinson grew up in a military environment, he did not join the Army by design.

"I just kind of fell into it," he said, noting that factors such as the economy and the benefit getting money for college played a part in it.

The younger Wilkinson is interested in becoming a firefighter and is leaning toward hooking up with a reserve fire fighting unit in Colorado once his stint in the Active Duty Army is up.

The experience he is gaining now while on Active Duty is paying big dividends in personal growth, he said.

"It's helped a lot with discipline," he said. "I used to start things a lot and not finish them. Now, when I take a job, I always finish it. Now it comes easy."

His active duty experience has also broadened his horizons, he said.

"It (being in this part of the world) has been interesting," he said. "It kind of blew me away."

The father and son will be able to see each other on a weekly basis due to the fact that the younger Wilkinson's job requires him to run missions here once a week. This is also a comfort to the younger Wilkinson's mother, Wilkinson Sr. said.

"Thirty or forty or fifty years from now when I've lost all my teeth, we'll have some stories to tell, Wilkinson senior said.

COL. David A. Teeple meets with local Sheiks and Officials at Rifles Base

Photos by Edouard H. R. Glück



MEETING-- (above) Sheiks from the Al Anbar region listen to issues, concerns and accolades in a meeting with the 3d ACR Commander. (left) COL. Teeple and Al Anbar Governor Abel AlKareem Burgess Alzaldin communicate with the help of the Governor's Interpreter.

Soldiers Relax a Moment on the 4th of July

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Gary Qualls
Special Correspondent to the Desert Rifles



ILLUSIONARY ELIXIR -- Troopers "drink" to a toast while on a Caribbean Cruise in Maj. (CH) Michael Faria's hypnotic world. Faria delighted soldiers with his hypnotic skills during a show at the rotunda last week. The chaplain also performed magic for the soldiers.



YANKEE DOODLE DINER-- Troopers enjoy a special 4th of July spread featuring steak, bratwurst, baked beans, pudding and ice cold soda pop -- courtesy of the RHHT Mobile Kitchen Trailer crew. The American flags shown here added a patriotic flavor to the feast. Popular music by artists such as Bruce Springsteen, AC/DC, Garth Brooks and Alice Cooper was provided by soldiers from psyop. Approximately 400 people were fed at the event.

The Press: Friend or Foe?

By Capt. Michael Calvert,
Regimental Public Affairs Officer

It isn't easy for most people to know how to react or what to say when a microphone or tape recorder is suddenly thrust into his or her face. Under the best of circumstances, many people feel intimidated by cameras or reporters. As we do our various duties here in Iraq, we are not under the best of circumstances. Soldiers are often unsure what, if anything, they can or should say to members of the press, particularly foreign press.

In the past few weeks, there has been an increased presence of media in our areas of operation. Many of the reporters are from media organizations that operate in countries other than the United States such as, Al Jazeera, Abu Dhabi Television, French Press Agency, and The London Observer. It is very possible that one of them will want to talk to you.

What can you say?

What can't you say?

What should you say?

Here are some simple guidelines:

First, always remember operational security. Do not say anything that in any way could possibly compromise the safety and security of you or your fellow soldiers. Do not say anything that could compromise the mission.

Second, do not comment on anything that falls outside

of your lane. If you are a track mechanic, do not talk about flying Apaches. Tell the press about the great things you and your co-workers are doing in your job, in your area of responsibility. Do not talk about what track mechanics are doing in Baghdad, even if you think you know.

Tell the truth. Do not lie to the press. If you do not know an answer, say that you do not know. Do not say "no comment," as it implies you are trying to hide something. You may refer them to your commander or unit public affairs representative. You may state that some things fall outside of your lane, or are still under investigation.

Be polite, even if the interviewer is not. You are not talking to him or her; you are talking to the audience. The impression you give is often the impression the audience has of your entire organization. Try to put a positive angle on even the most negative question. The famous television reporter Sam Donaldson said, it isn't the question that gets people in trouble. It's the answer.

Finally, try to treat every member of the press equally, even if he or she represents an organization that you do not like. We do not have to like the press, but we do have to live with them. The story that they file is often positive or negative based on their interaction with you, the soldiers of the 3d ACR.

The Back Page...

Iranian Siamese Twins Die After Risky Surgery

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iranian twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani, joined in life, arrived in their homeland in two coffins on Thursday, achieving their dream of separation only in death.

"They were tired of being joined together," said Nooshin Mehran, who described herself as the twins' best friend. "Now they are dead their biggest wish has come true. I don't regret not trying to change their minds."

A Muslim cleric said prayers over the coffins. A police band played a funeral march as the bodies were taken by ambulance to the coroner's office for a death certificate before being flown to southern Iran for burial.

The funeral is to take place on Friday in the village where the sisters were born near the city of Shiraz.

"We didn't want to welcome them home this way," said Maryam Nofarsti with her twin sister Leyla, childhood friends of Ladan and Laleh. "It was very difficult for them, that's why they chose between life and death."

Laleh and Ladan died on Tuesday, 90 minutes apart, from severe blood loss in the final stages of a marathon operation to separate their joined brains that began on Sunday.

The two women were joined at the head, something that only occurs once in every two million live births. A separation operation had never been tried on adults.

President Mohammad Khatami sent a message of condolence.

"Surrendering to divine fate is a sign of strong faith, profound knowledge and stable will.

What happened to Laleh and Ladan is one page in the great book of destiny," he said.

Rumsfeld is pressed on troops' return

WASHINGTON -- The soldiers of the Third Infantry Division, some of whom have been deployed in the Persian Gulf region since the middle of last year, will return from Iraq and Kuwait by the end of September, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld told a congressional panel yesterday.

"The president declared an end to major combat operation, but the war's not over for the men and women who are on the ground in Iraq or their families here at home," said Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts.

"Our troops are tired, want to return to their families who are at home coping with the absence and the loss of income. They have been gone close to a year and this is truly a hardship.

Rumsfeld said that in addition to the return of the 16,000 troops of the Third Infantry, which will begin to leave this month, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and each of the armed services have been asked to present him this week with schedules for rotating the remaining troops out of the region, an effort to make the length of their stays more certain.

Both men emphasized the United States is looking to increase troops from other countries. Currently, Rumsfeld said, 19 coalition partners have 19,000 troops in Iraq -- up from 12,000 a month ago -- and 11,000 more have been promised. He added that 19 other countries have made commitments and that the United States is negotiating

deployments with another 11 nations, including India and Pakistan.

The number of US troops could be reduced, Rumsfeld said, as more international forces flow into the region. He said that the new forces could include some from NATO, which "has seized the issue, and is discussing it."

After 19 years in dark, coma victim's first word: 'Mom'

A man who had been in a coma-like state for almost two decades suddenly began talking last month.

Terry Wallis, 39, of Mountain View, Ark., was severely injured in a car accident in 1984, left with brain stem injuries and paralyzed below the neck. Wallis had only been semi-conscious at times in the past 19 years, responding to simple questions with a nod of his head or by grunting, says Jerry Wallis, Terry's father.

Recovering from an extended coma and regaining the ability to talk after two decades is extremely rare, says neurologist and rehabilitation expert David Good of Wake Forest University Medical School in Winston-Salem, N.C. It's so rare that statistics are not kept.

On June 12, Wallis' mother, Angilee, was visiting her son at the Stone County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center when a nurse assistant pointed toward her and asked Wallis whether he knew who was sitting in that chair. He replied, "Mom," says James Zini, a family physician and doctor of osteopathic medicine who has treated Wallis since the accident.

When Wallis was asked why he began talking again after 19 years, he replied, "I decided to start moving my lips."

Zini prescribed the antidepressant Paxil to Wallis 18 months ago, but he says he

does not know whether it contributed to Wallis' reawakening.

"There is nothing I know of to explain scientifically what happened, Zini says. "I think it was a miracle. I don't know any other way to say it."

Britney, Justin actually did, well, you know

The world was less than stunned this week when Britney Spears admitted she had slept with Justin Timberlake despite having vowed to remain a virgin until she wed.

In the upcoming issue of W magazine, the pop star details her relationship with Timberlake.

The 21-year-old Spears, whose rise from Mouseketeer to pop megastar mirrored Timberlake's success, reveals that she had sex with the 'N Sync boy-band singer because she believed they would marry someday.

"I've only slept with one person my whole life," she says. "It was two years into my relationship with Justin, and I thought he was the one. But I was wrong."

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3rd ACR PAO
Operation Iraqi Freedom
APO AE 09320-1507

Regimental Commander
Col. David A. Teeple
Regimental Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Michael Calvert
Staff
Publishing Editors
Capt. Michael Calvert
Sgt. 1st Class Keith O'Donnell
Editor/Layout
Cpl. Joe Niesen
Staff Reporter
Spc. Justin Carmack
Cpl. Joe Niesen

Timberlake had kissed and told in a previous radio interview.

As for reports linking Spears to Irish heartthrob Colin Farrell, she says, "Yes, I kissed him. Of course I did! He's the cutest, hottest thing in the world - wooh! . . . But it was nothing serious."

The kiss left her with a "craving" for more of the same. "I haven't had a boy in a really long time . . . just a kiss, man. Just a kiss would be nice."